

•28 MEMOIRS OF NAPOLEON-
BONAPARTE.

population of the Hanse Towns amounted to only 200,000 individuals | and yet this handful of men carried on an extensive commerce' arid their ships ploughed every sea, from the shores of India to the frozen regions of Greenland.

The Emperor arrived at Paris towards the end of January, 1806. Having created Kings in Germany he deemed the moment favorable for surrounding his throne with new princes. It was at this period that he created Murat, Grand Duke of Cleves and Berg ; Bernadotte, Prince of Ponte-Corvo ; M. de Talleyrand, Duke of Benevento; and his two former colleagues, Cambaceres and Lebrun, Dukes of Parma and Pia-eenza.¹ He also gave to his sister Pauline, a short time after her second marriage with the Prince Borghese, the title of! Duchess of Gnastalla. Strange events ! who could then have foreseen that the duchy of Cambaceres would become the refuge of a Princess of Austria, the widowed wife of Napoleon Bonaparte ?²

In the midst of the prosperity of the Imperial family, when the eldest of the Emperor's brothers had ascended the throne

¹ For a list of the chief titles created by Napoleon see the *Memoirs of Madame Junot*, 1883, English edition, vol. iii. p. 512.

² Maria Louisa, who has the limited sovereignty of Parma and Piacenza has, since 1815, principally resided at Parma. Ponte-Corvo and Benevento, which gave birth to Bernadotte and Talleyrand, are two towns in the interior of the kingdom of Naples which previously to the Revolution belonged to the Pope.

here is a slip of territory attached to each of them, that of Benevento being not inconsiderable. The city of Benevento contains about 18,000 inhabitants, and is ancient and exceedingly interesting. There are the remains of a Roman amphitheatre and a bridge, a granite obelisk of the time of Domitian, and a magnificent triumphal arch of the Emperor Trajan. This arch, which is one of the finest in existence, is of Parian marble, and very little injured by time or violence. The town is situated in the midst of a beautiful country, and two important rivers, the Galore and the Sebato, sweep by it. It is due to that remarkable personage to state that M. de Talleyrand was a kind and generous master, and that his *regime* was exceedingly popular at Benevento. His subjects, or vassals, were exempted from the barbarous conscription law. We were there in 1816, a short time after the State had been restored to the Roman See, which still holds it, and we heard all parties speak well of M. de Talleyrand.

By creating this new order of nobility Bonaparte effaced the last traces of the revolutionary republican organization. The principedoms and dukedoms he conferred were all accompanied with grants of extensive estates and territories in the countries he had conquered— in Germany, Italy, etc.; and the great feudatories of the new Empire, it will be observed, bore foreign, and not French titles. This showed distinctly that Napoleon wanted "to sink the memory of the Bourbon monarchy, and revive the imago of Charlemagne, Emperor of the West."— *Editor O/1836 edition.*